

Am. Essay  
on  
Homoeopathy  
Respectfully Submitted to the  
Faculty  
of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of  
Pennsylvania

On the first day of February  
One thousand eight hundred & fifty seven

by  
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of  
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Examined by Dr. Hake

"The perfection of a cure consists in restoring health in a prompt and permanent manner, in removing and annihilating disease by the shortest, safest and most certain means, upon principles that are above plain and intelligible."

Hahnemanns Org. S. 2.

### Homoeopathy

It is not my intention in this imperfect paper to enter into any length of discussion as to the comparative merits of either system of practice.

Suffice it to say my object is wholly of a different character, my aim being to show

in as few words as possible the reason why after an allopathic practice of ten years, I now give the preference to Homoeopathy.

Since the first day I entered upon my professional career my object has been to fulfil the great end of the true physician. to save life & to alleviate suffering.

I quit the halls of my venerable Alma Mater, having accomplished my course, with that long & earnestly looked for parchment, bearing the noble names of Valentine Mott Patterson. Revere. Paine. Draper. & Bedford.

I went forth armed with a pana-



- ced. for every disease - "conquering  
& to conquer". Here shall I forge  
the quantities of Materia Medica  
which I had gathered from the broad  
and boundless Allopathic fields,  
ready for use at a moment's warn-  
-ing. and began practice filled  
with high hopes in anticipation of  
the future. Hopes which to the  
Allopaths are - seldom fulfilled

I soon obtained my  
share of practice and it is not vain  
in me to say, but with success -  
which brought me an increase of  
business, with it I soon began to  
see that the system of instruction  
through which I had just passed -



lacked. Convincing, the law. to  
make. their instructions valuable,  
as a positive science.

Now. was it possible. for me. to bet-  
ter my condition, at the end of  
the first year. I found. my beau-  
tiful fancied theories of the nature  
of disease. & the action of medicines  
empty. nothing more. a convincing name  
devoid of meaning. and of no prac-  
tical utility

At the end of the second year. my  
condition seemed. even more hopeless  
and in the third year. found myself  
lost. — lost in the infinite labyrinth  
of "Contraria Contrariis" "That strength  
of despair", however. I continued

my course, too proud to look  
to any other corner for light, I  
groined in the dark.

Now after we have sat down, and  
in speaking on these matters with  
my Allopathic brethren, have so  
confessed mutually the superior  
success of the Homoeopathy, and  
with us the utter uncertainty of  
the practice of medicine, our ig-  
norance of the true action of the very  
simplest remedial agent. Feel-  
ing the force of Dr Johnson's re-  
mark, when asked what a Phys-  
ician was. replied "one who  
pours physic of which he knows  
little into a body of which he knows



less. The best advocacy of any  
our system is its success. This has  
been the grand proof to Homoeopathy  
It is by its success that it has  
steadily & rapidly advanced, evol-  
ving itself from its original origin  
conquering the apathy of the public, a-  
wakeing the jealousy of the pro-  
fessors, winning adherents and ef-  
fecting astonishing reforms. and  
although a system still in its infan-  
cy it has in the face of the most  
determined opposition gained hosts  
of adherents who are ever ready  
to fight her battles and defend her  
spotless character.

Sydenham in his "Opera Magna"

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says that "Medicine can alone be  
perfected by the discovery of Spe-  
cifics"

This the Philosophers claim is now  
within our grasp. That claim is Hom-  
oeopathy. because the doctrine of  
Specifics is simply the doctrine  
of Homoeopathy. It not only dis-  
covers Specifics but also gives  
a law for their universal applica-  
tion. & it is the first successful  
generalization of the Materia Med-  
ica under the most comprehensive  
principle, Similia Similibus Curan-  
tur, a simple and universal law  
founded upon pure induction, not  
invented but discovered.



Let us examine you a few moments into the different modes in which medicine may be applied. viz. allopathically & Homoeopathically.

Black. in his treatise on principles & practice of Homoeopathy says. The term allopathy as a general term is applicable to the present prevailing system of medicine, but as ordinary practice owes much of its success to the homoeopathicity of the means such cases may be separated. we intend now to discuss the purely allopathic practice.

Contraria Contrariis curantur, is the oldest & most natural therapeutical indication. You - no stim. leads

us when cold. to warm. ourselves  
when warm to cool. ourselves. This  
has led to the employment of purg-  
atives in constipation. of astring-  
ents in diarrhoea. of refriger-  
ants in fevers. of sedatives in pain  
of blood. letting in excited states  
of the system.

But this practice so natural in the-  
ory is not only unsuccessful but  
even dangerous.

If we follow nature as our guide  
we find no example of dissimilar  
diseases curing each other reciproc-  
ally but we observe that the one  
only supersedes the other. except in  
cases where they blend together.



which rarely occurs in acute diseases.

Some one has remarked "that allopathic practice may in many cases palliate, but it remedies directly" it may relieve but always at the expense of the constitution of the patient.

Take for example a case illustrated to me which may be met with as a daily occurrence in practice.

A patient laboring under some violent Neuralgic affection. Small doses of Opium or some of its preparations are administered - The pain is relieved, but each day it returns, the dose must be repeated day after

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day, it is not only repeated, but increased, what is the consequence?

True the suffering may be relieved but the drug in addition to removing pain acts otherwise - it disorders & deranges the digested organs - causing head-ache - constipation &c rendering the patient miserable, so much so. That relief is far from being equivalent to the disordered health.

Again in habitual constipation a purgative is administered, the bowels are opened as a primary effect. but counteraction succeeds & is superadded to the existing constipation, the dose is repeated, increased, &c. long we have



following, in the train. Haemorrhoids  
dyspepsia and a host of other ills -  
I will now say a few words in re-  
gard to blood letting. That "Emigra-  
non" to the Allopaths

Blood letting is objectionable on the  
grounds - 1<sup>st</sup> of its - unsuccessfulness  
on the one hand. & on the other the  
danger - as compared with the em-  
ployment of Specific Remedies, - for  
it is an indirect and only palliative  
mode of treatment for it only re-  
lieves the urgency of the symptoms  
but does not effect a radical  
cure.

If inflammation be a cause ap-  
plied to a series of symptoms

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having for their primary cause "an  
abnormal condition of the vitality  
of the vessels of contents" as is  
believed by many, it is surely only  
palliative treatment. If blood is  
removed in order to relieve the vessels  
whether directly or indirectly, as  
is more probable, by depressing the  
action of the heart. Why attack  
this increase of the pulse, this tur-  
gescence of the capillaries, this  
symptom of symptoms, in preference  
to removing the cause by a specific  
remedy. It is defective as a means  
for although its primary effect is  
to reduce suddenly the action of the  
heart, its secondary one, which even



follows is a state of reaction a great increase of vascular action, this must necessarily be counteracted by some other means. It is too often mistaken for the natural progress of the disease.

The want of success which follows blood letting, may be fully or fitly illustrated in persons who bleed for a tendency of blood to the head. The immediate disagreeable symptoms are relieved, but the so called tendency soon returns. The individual is bled periodically, but with only temporary relief. In the course of the disease has never been attacked. It is in just such cases.

that the superiority of Homoeopathic treatment is witnessed in opposition to that merely palliative.

The employment of minute doses in Homoeopathy is practice is the greatest stumbling block to allopathy. It is seemingly so contrary to reasoning, deduced from what has been the dogmas of the Fathers of Medicine from the early ages to the present moment and in fact I may add, that it is a subject not for captious arguments - but for practical illustration. Nothing else can prove its truth. Nothing else is required - This great mystery has deterred,



many, who might otherwise have been inclined to examine the subject.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the homeopathic law and the employment of minute doses are two things quite independent of each other.

Hahnemann, when he commenced to practice homeopathy employed the ordinary doses of the medicines whose pathogenesis was homeopathic to the disease under treatment. But observing the frequent & dangerous reactions he was led gradually to diminish the dose until he arrived at the systematic plan, now adapted, in the preparation and use of homeopathic medicines — Thus a rem

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edy, is homeopathic not. from the  
form it is administered, nor yet  
from the dose, but only from its  
relation to the disease.

Every remedy is homeopathic to  
whom it stands in the relation of  
similarity to the disease for which  
it is to serve as a remedy. whether  
it be used in the 3rd development  
of the 4000. or in undiluted,  
in grain. Example. Arachn. or. Once  
doses. If any allopath finds  
he can cure by this means without  
degrading himself by the use of  
infinitesimal sugar pills as he  
imagines. let him do so. and he  
will if he follow the Law Similia.



"similbus curantur". be as much a  
homoeopath as Hahnemann himself  
or any of his followers, but the thing,  
is impossible, is absurd. It needs  
but experiment to prove - on  
it fallacy & empty on the other  
hand the beautiful truths in the  
system now laid down as our  
guide in Homoeopathic Practice -

Large doses are  
opposed only to the peculiarities  
of Hahnemann, not to the system  
of Homoeopathy:

I have been frequently asked by  
my Allopathic brethren, why de-  
scend to the palpable absurdity  
of infinitesimal doses, & the use

of those contemptible "little pills"  
what can you accomplish with  
them? You lean all in the hands  
of Nature she perfects the cure  
and you get the praise, for your  
cures if you ever have any. are  
Spontaneous?

Allow me to ask in reply why  
it is that allopaths never are  
so fortunate as to make Spontane-  
ous cures, but "are contraindicated" their  
cases get well in spite of the Dr  
and his medicine, (Thanks to a  
kind Providence & a good emeti-  
-cution) many times.

The experience of such painful &  
dangerous aggravations, which are



Now in any case necessary to a  
cure. led. Rahnmann to employ  
minute doses.

Even. Theoretically we may aim  
in some measure. I think, at the pos-  
sibility of minute doses effecting  
the economy, for in chemistry we see  
many analogous facts, I will con-  
tinue on for illustration. which per-  
haps has some use for the same pur-  
pose many times yet it will be  
over on this occasion.

A solution of common salt. in a  
million parts of water is detect-  
ed. by a very weak solution of nitrate  
of silver & iron separated. Copper  
from a solution containing only the

fifty-millionth part of that salt-

We have also the extraordinary experiments of Spallanzani upon the impregnation of frog-sperm, by immersing it in water in which only ~~one~~ so much male sperm was dissolved as to give the  $\frac{1}{2994687500}$  part of a grain to each egg.

If such very minute quantities act, can we not suppose equal by minute quantities of medicine affecting a much more susceptible machine, a living body, considered more delicate, by possessing at the time a peculiar susceptibility to the action of the medicine. It is a well known



on the other fact. that the organism  
is much more susceptible of the  
action of homo-geneous or similar  
than hetero-geneous or dissimilar  
stimuli

Mr Poppard from enormous quantities  
of wine & spirits are taken  
without bad effects, whereas  
a minute quantity would act vi-  
olently if given to a patient la-  
bouring under inflammatory fever  
or Phrenitis.

Again we may apply a degree  
of heat to the hand without the  
least inconvenience, which were  
it burned. would be intolerable  
this fact anyone may test for himself.

It has been said  
that "the susceptibility of the animal  
frame of its specific irritant is somewhat  
analogous to that of a chemical solu-  
tion for its specific reagent."

"An inflamed Eye is disagreeably  
impressed and the inflammation in-  
creased by the ordinary light of  
day — an inflamed Ear by the slight-  
est noises, but the report of artillery  
does not affect the inflamed Eye and  
the dazzling light has no effect upon  
the inflamed Ear." Thus it is that  
Homoeopathy enters into similar views  
as to the operation of their remedial  
agents.

Many critics ascribe to us the folly



of practicing in the old method with  
our dilutions, & instead of an emetic  
for example, they say that we admin-  
ister the 3<sup>rd</sup> dilution of Tartar Emetic  
and purge with the 3<sup>rd</sup> dilution of  
Calap.

This results from inexcusable ignorance  
or intentional misrepresentation for we  
employ the dilutions of those remedies  
for removing the Cause or diarrhoea  
adapted to them, but not to provoke  
these symptoms for which purpose an  
other form & dose would be demand-  
ed.

To the opponents of Homoeopathy  
who endeavor to prove the inefficacy  
of our remedies, by the argument—

"That a healthy man may swallow the contents of a whole pocket case of Homoeopathic Medicines without feeling the least effect" -

To this fact we reply, that the peculiarities of these Remedies are not to operate upon the healthy but only upon individuals whose disease bears to them a specific relation and affinity.

The ground work of all practice is a knowledge of the object to be treated, and also the remedy, these presupposes an accurate acquaintance with Physiology, Pathology, Etiology & Chemi-ology. but it seems our allopathy



-ie. brethren, seem to think quite differently. Thus they say "all that a Homoeopath wants is symptoms & symptoms only."

The true Homoeopathic Physician in addition to scientific & professional attainments, much he possesses of circumspection & tact, a knowledge of the human heart, prudence & patience to be able to form to himself a true & complete image of the disease.

For the practical application of the Homoeopathic law, the first step necessary to be observed is forming to our selves "a correct image of the disease". To attain this object we are

to listen - write - interrogate - and  
lastly arrange.

The examination is first to bear upon  
the history of the case

Secondly upon the patient himself  
And third upon the disease.

Hahnemann has recommended that  
every detail of the case should be com-  
mitted to paper. - a practice which  
in proportion as it is carefully per-  
formed will facilitate the diag-  
nosis as well as treatment.

The totality of the symptoms which  
characterizes a given case, or in  
other words the image of the disease  
being once committed to paper the  
most difficult part is accom-  
plished. The physician ever of



-ter has this image before his eyes  
 to serve as a basis to his treatment;  
 especially when the disease is chron-  
 ic - He can then study it in all  
 of its parts & draw from it the char-  
 acteristic marks in order to oppose  
 these symptoms - that is to say to  
 the disease itself - a remedy  
 that is perfectly homoeopathic -  
 whose choice has been decided  
 on according to the nature of  
 the morbid symptoms which it  
 produces from its simple action upon  
 the body. And if during the course  
 of the treatment he inquires after  
 the effects of the remedy, and the  
 changes that have taken place in,

The state of the patient, it only remains to obliterate from the group of. Primative Symptoms, those which have entirely disappeared, to note down those of which there are still some remains, and add the new ones which have supervened."

Ask. Arg. § 104.

The second necessary step in the application of the Homoeopathic law is the careful selection of the remedy.

The selection of a Homoeopathic remedy is not a mere mechanical process, requiring only an effort of memory or a recourse to "reperto-  
ries", but demands the most



comprehensive examination & presupposes an extensive acquaintance with medical science

The similarity of the remedy to the image of the disease must not only be in appearance, but similar if possible in cause. For example if the cause of the disease be an inflammation of the brain, a remedy is to be chosen which has a tendency to produce this pathological condition & if the exciting cause can be traced to an abuse, for instance of spirituous liquors, a remedy would be selected which approaches the nearest in its action to that of alcohol —

Again if in fact the patient complains of head-ache, we would be guided by the other symptoms in judging if this was idiopathic or if it was symptomatic. Keeping the other symptoms in view we might probably in the first instance give Belladonna, or the latter or the former, as in forming an image of the disease, we at first seek to discover the occasional cause, so in selecting the remedy we seek for a corresponding similarity.

Experience now enables us to choose medicines which are particularly adapted to a train of symptoms, arising from



certain causes for example. in  
 Neuralgia of the cold or chill, the  
 medicines which are indicated would  
 be Sulcamara. - Rux Vomica - or per-  
 haps. Acute. if it appeared after  
 inter mittent fever. Arsenicum - or  
 China if from an abuse of Mer-  
 cury. Aurum. - Repar Sulphuris  
 If to fear we would be led to  
 consult. Chamomilla Rux Vomica  
 or Bryonia. if indigestion caus-  
 ed by fat things. Pulsatilla  
 If the disease could be  
 traced to Venereal excess or loss  
 of blood - China. Rux V. & Phos Acid  
 Rux V. knowledge greatly curtails  
 the number of medicines among-

which to choose - but the further de-  
 termination which particular remedy  
 to select. out of several. which have  
 these tendencies is governed. by the  
 aggregate of the symptoms.

Before I close I would  
 repeat again - in answer to the  
 doses of Homoeopathic Medicines  
 All must feel that the attempts  
 as yet made. to account for the  
~~efficacy of minute doses~~, are  
 incomplete, but at the same  
 time it is curious to think that  
 we have to do. not with how they  
act. that they do act we have  
 proved. by a thousand experiments  
 the truth of which cannot for a



moment. be. impugned.

Not those who deny what they cannot explain, we confess we are unable. to enter into discussion, but if they remain firm on such foundations of belief - we will grant the value of their decision, when they first prove to us satisfactory why three or four grains of Tartar Emetic excites vomiting.

Further these individuals to be consistent, should deny the power of contagion of malaria for the thousands fall, victims yearly to its influence, who has yet discovered their weight, measure, or composition, these things are. inexpli

-cable yet - who dares deny its power?

In mechanical philosophy and in chemistry, are we not contented with the simple observation of phenomena, and do we not leave unattempted the modes by which they operate?

Like these the efficacy of minute doses, is at present an ultimate fact and beyond that we cannot proceed.

These are great mysteries which we must leave to the Great Author who intended the whole to answer the purposes in which we alone are interested, who has



wisely secured to himself the nature  
and control of first causes, and  
who has thereby restricted our in-  
quiries to the only useful objects  
of knowledge, their various phe-  
nomena.

Ever wishing, & praying  
for the success of Homoeopathy  
in general and of the Homoeopath-  
ic Medical College of Philadel-  
phia in particular. I remain  
Gentlemen,

Very Sincerely & truly yours  
Wm. Cressman M.D.